

TAILOR

NEWS MAGAZINE

APRIL 2009



VOLUME XVII ISSUE VIII

TALON

NEWS MAGAZINE

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IN THIS ISSUE



KAYLE WALKER

In this issue of the Talon, in our campus section you will find out about all the tasty food at ethnic food day, how “to insure proper service,” and even get an idea for a summer job. You will discover how to make your favorite hobby into an official Avila organization, and even hear how one new club, Micro Cinema, made it official. You will also read about how Mock Trail finished at the Regional Tournament and other various activities going on around campus.

The feature of the issue is yours truly venting about a couple of pet peeves of mine. The feature also includes excerpts from the Talon staff venting about what drives them up the wall. You can read full versions of these articles and more at www.thetalon-online.com.

In our A&E section, fashionista Ricky Davis gives us his tips on how to let your friend down gently on bad clothing choices. Also read a movie review on “Confessions of a Shopaholic” and a CD review of Erick Mackery’s “Statepark”.

In our sports section, they call it March Madness for a reason, it’s all about BASKETBALL! Find out how Avila athletes ranked in the HAAC, and get informed about the NCAA tournament. We also update you on Avila’s baseball team and give you a preview on Avila’s softball team.

We continue our tradition in the political section with another he said/she said. Ben Kopp also gives President Obama a “To-Do” list, and Dave Wilson gives his political commentary on our President’s gift giving abilities.

Seems like I am leaving something out? Oh that’s right, March is a month full of holidays; St. Patrick’s Day, Lint, and oh yes... SPRING BREAK. Get the latest on these things from the Talon staff **ONLINE ONLY** at www.avila.edu/talon.

That’s it for this issue of the Talon. It will be the last print edition you see on the stands, but look for our graduation issue coming out at the end of April **ONLINE ONLY**. Enjoy this issue of the Talon!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Jacqueline Sharp



Each issue, we are dedicating a small section to profile a member of the Talon Team. This issue we honor Jacqueline Sharp. Jacqueline is a junior majoring in Public Relations and Advertising. This is her second year writing for the Talon and she really enjoys it. She likes it because it’s an outlet for her to write about issues that she actually cares about and a place where people her age will actually read them. She doesn’t really have a favorite section, but she always enjoys the sports section.

When Jacqueline isn’t writing for the Talon she likes to go out with friends and shop. Her favorite book is anything by Chelsea Handler because she can’t stop laughing. Her favorite movie is Anchorman and her favorite song (right now) is “Can’t Believe It” by T-Pain.

After graduation Jacqueline plans on going to graduate school and then moving out of the Kansas City area to work. She hopes one day she could make her home in either Chicago or San Francisco. Jacqueline brings an interesting point of view to the Talon and is a great asset to the paper.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Talon News Magazine is produced by the students of Avila University. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the TALON NEWS staff, the Trustees, administration, faculty, or staff of the University. The Talon News Magazine encourages letters to the editor. These may be submitted electronically, or in writing and should include the writer’s name, address, and telephone numbers for verification purposes. Letters can be mailed to the TALON News Magazine Editor, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. 64145. The Talon reserves the right to edit letters for reasons of space, clarity, or inappropriate language. Copies of the Talon News Network Operational Guidelines may be requested by writing to the above referenced address.

**IF YOU SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR WE DO HAVE THE
RIGHT TO PUBLISH IT!**

JOIN THE TALON TEAM

We’re always looking to expand our Talon team. If you are interested in writing stories, taking pictures, or page layout, please feel free to contact me. Additionally, we also appreciate any feedback, good or bad.

Kayle Walker
walker129211@avila.edu

Cover Concept: Adam Stinson

Cover Design: Adam Stinson

Editor in Chief
Kayle Walker

Layout Editor
Adam Stinson

Copy Editors
Charlotte Bishop
Ashley Townsend

Managing Editor
Ben Kopp

Advertising Manager
Adam Stinson

Web Editor
Adam Stinson

Podcast Editor
Micheal B. Rollen

Campus Editor
Michele Watley

A&E Editor
Emily Hoskins

Sports Editor
Colleen Reagan

Politics Editor
Dave Wilson

Special Report
Javier Kely

Opinions Editor
Monica Lang

Staff Writers

Erin Hopper
Jaqueline Sharp
Lane Goodin
Faye Gipe
Spencer Davis
Khasasn Simmons
Nicole Drew

Journalism

Sherry Haetinger
Tyler Herring
Christina Johnston
Jacob Lemmon
Timothy Matson
Dakota Miller
Jessica Morrow
Mary Poduska
Eric Potter
Sarah Ramierz
Kimberly Vittonino

Business Manager
Janine Urness

Faculty Advisor
J. Anthony Snorgrass

How A Group Becomes a Club

Ben Kopp

Make your favorite hobby official!

Whether within or at the end of their busy schedules, students are finding ways to create unofficial groups that express their interests in ways for which existing official organizations do not provide. Two new organizations have been created this semester alone under these circumstances. Although some of these groups would like to remain free to assemble without university recognition, others would jump at the opportunity to gain recognition and receive funding for their activities if they simply knew how.

The first order of business is interest among the rest of the student body. Without other students behind the idea of a new group, the organization will only last as long as the one member is at Avila. Besides, the initial group of students should be a party to collaborate on the constitution, which discusses the basic

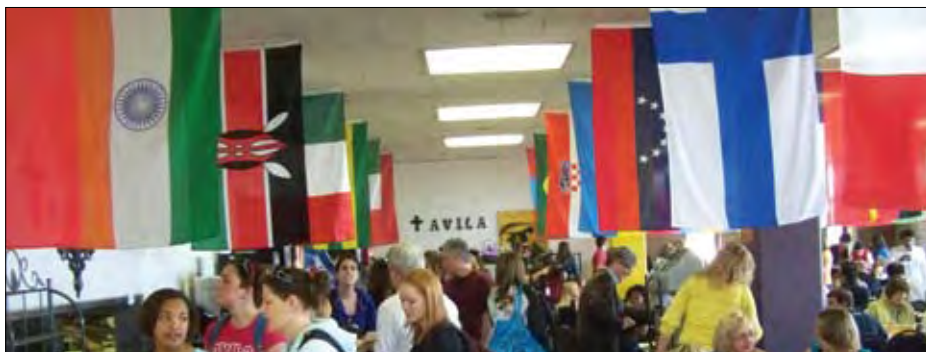
structure of the group: the purpose of the organization, how members are chosen, who is in charge of what, the advisor, rules, and procedures. Create a list of officers with the advisor included once the constitution is finished. This list is to be paired with the constitution, and the President takes both documents to the Director of Student Life, Jason Baldwin. Once approved, he will send the constitution to the Dean of Students, the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Development, and the Student Senate. If a few suggestions are made, do not hesitate to make the changes or additions necessary for your organization to become official; suggestions are only made to keep organizations reasonable and long-lasting.



"...students are finding ways to create unofficial groups that express their interests in ways for which existing official organizations do not provide."

Ethnic Food Day

Janos Serfozo



Culture... yummm!

Avila University held its annual "Ethnic Food and Cultural Celebration Day" on March 5, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This event celebrates the knowledge and experiences of the different cultures from which our students here at Avila come from. There was music and food from the different cultures such as the Mexican, Asian, Middle Eastern and American traditions. This was a great event, so much so that a Channel 4 news crew came and got footage and ran a story on the Culture Day. One of the big highlights was a belly dancer that entertained the guests in the Marian Center with her exotic and graceful moves. Another great thing about this event was that students from their respective country were able to represent their country at a booth and share their culture's other traditions as well as the food. There was a great turn out and there were smiles from all around the world that day.

Summer jobs with College Pro Painters and a chance to win big with Talon TV in this issue of Campus News.

With spring break behind us, we want to start looking forward to summer. But before we take that look ahead, we want to look at some of the events from the past months. Janos reminisces on the food and fun at the Ethnic Food Festival. A prayer for a prayer; the perfect trade off is what Ben is talking about. Looking ahead to summer, College Pro Painters is looking to give Avila students the opportunity to run manage their own painting companies. Talon Television is looking to give students their chance at five minutes of fame, and the chance to win big! A value vent, tipping tips, and other stories round out this issues of Campus News.



Talon TV is Coming Soon

Monica Lang

Tune in

Get ready AU, here comes Talon TV!!! With our brand new efforts we have combined quite the ultimate competition opportunity for students. This is an opportunity for students to be featured online on our new TALON TV series. Because youtube.com has become so popular, the Talon is coming out with some new ways to get acquainted with our audience. Let's say a particular student is not really a big fan of grabbing one of those big papers and lugging it around with him or her; he or she can just go to thetalon-online.com and check it out there. Not only will you be able to catch the newspaper on our own website (soon). The Talon is making the biggest step forward into connecting with our very online society - we are adopting the digital video effect into our newspaper. On our television.url we will have LIVE student interviews, live He Said/She Said, live Word On The Street questions, and basically more involvement and interaction with our readers, also known as the students of Avila University. Keep your eyes open for on campus interviews, and don't turn it down because it could be your chance at 5 minutes of fame.

ATTENTION: All students living in dorms on campus keep your eyes open for a big competition coming up against the other dorms in SPRING 2009. The winner of this contest will be getting a HUGE compensation for not only participating in, but winning the first annual Top Chef Student Competition (dorm room style). We have some great events coming up! Please contact Monica Lang @ lang7830@avila.edu with any questions or comments about the competition.

Talon TV (via YouTube®)



Visit Us On [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com)



Read the Talon's Special Holiday report **ONLINE ONLY** at www.avila.edu/talon
Spring Break + St. Patrick's Day + Mardi Gras + Lint

Soliciting on Craig’s List

Kalie Laidley

Can Anything be Posted?

Craigslist.org has developed into the target of large amounts of publicity, but not for their usual postings. The popular online community bulletin board that posts classified ads has become home to people soliciting that the site clearly activity.

The site is for employment, etc. However, of cases involving the solicitation of sex on the website has grown.

Most recently, in Cincinnati, Ohio, a man was arrested on charges of soliciting prostitution on Craigslist. These ads, some of which are still accessible, contain nude photos of women who are suspected to be prostitutes.

“...recently, the number of cases involving the solicitation of sex on the website has grown.

numerous postings for sex, despite the fact prohibits this illegal normally sought out furniture, event tickets, recently, the number

craigslist

kansas city, MO^W

Another incident was recorded in Bellefontaine, Ohio. There, a public school teacher was accused of using a school computer to access the well known website to solicit herself for prostitution. In this case, local police received a tip and a sergeant began an online correspondence with the woman. Through these conversations, authorities received the proof they needed and police arrested her at a local hotel.

The most extreme case, however, was in Martinez, California in 2005. A mother allegedly placed a posting on Craigslist using her four-year-old daughter. In the ad the mother offers her daughter for \$500 for the solicitation of sex. Currently, no charges have been filed.

These cases are only a few of the numerous incidents of sex solicitation that have occurred on Craigslist.org. However, the site is clear that any activity that is illegal is prohibited from their site. So now the question is, what are they going to do to stop it?

Micro Cinema Club

Javier Kelty

I Made This (IMT)

The Micro Cinema Club has been growing more active ever since Jade Edwards, the president, started taking charge. The organization’s main focus is on film making. Whether it’s narratives, documentaries or short flicks, Edwards emphasizes that everyone participates in each step of making a movie, so they will have as sufficient experience in all aspects of producing a movie as possible.

“We want to try to get as many films done as we can to the point that each member will get a chance to be in charge of a production,” Edwards said.

In order to make the group more proactive they are shooting for three different projects that should keep them busy the rest of the semester. They are planning to have weekly, biweekly and monthly shows on their website hopefully by April. They will cover topics like movie reviews, satires on campus life and current events.

The project in progress right now is a movie called Baka Guy, written and directed by Mike Franklin, which should be done with shooting by March 22nd.

Since the Micro Cinema Club is relatively new, they are always looking for ways to raise money for the budgets of their movies. Earlier in the year, Edwards held a poster drive, selling vintage movie posters. Another thing that will help the Club be more successful is a bigger membership. The more people involved means every job at the shoot is done more effectively with more feedback as well.

“We can always use more minds and ideas,” Edwards added.

If anyone is interested in joining or just seeing what the club is all about, they can find out at the weekly meetings held on Thursdays at 4:15 p.m. in room 800 in Dallavis Center.



“...everyone participates in each step of making a movie, so they will have as sufficient experience in all aspects of producing a movie as possible.”

Summer Employment Opportunity

Jaqueline Sharp

Real World Business Experience

Right now is the worst time in the nation to find a job because of the recession. There is one business in Kansas City that claims to be recession-proof. College Pro Painters is a company that hires college students to give them real world job experience while still in college. The company offers many different services, but mainly focuses on residential painting summer months. On average College around 30,000 States and in

“...one business in Kansas City that claims to be recession-proof. ”

Not only does work on residential areas, they also contribute to charitable organizations. College Pro Painters says that their business has increased 50% and they are looking for 15 Avila students to fill the franchise manager role. Franchise managers run the business and are accountable for their employees and everything their business does.

This is a good way to get real world business experience and would look great on a resume. For more information about this position contact Billy Martin at (913) 461- 4058 or email at bmartin@collegepro.com.



VALUE VENT: Student Perspective

Ben Kopp

The Broken Center of Avila Values

There is a value woven into all of the Avila University Values, yet is never directly stated. It is fairness that allows people to know their worth, dignity, and potential are recognized. It is fairness that allows for the true expression of diversity, interaction, and service. This is also the value that tells us to give credit to the Sisters of Saint Joseph for all they have done for us, is a cornerstone of excellent teaching, and is woven into and throughout the Catholic Doctrine. Our final thread of fairness strongly ties into the ability of people to grow, which is already supported and tied directly to all other Avila Values; thus creating a complex, perfect web. The web, however, is a delicate thing that must have all of its parts in tact; especially when it comes to the central component.

The worst way to destroy this structure is to build it improperly. Not only is an improper construction insulting to the image of perfection that it should be, but such imperfect work severely weakens the integrity of the structure. This may seem like a simple and completely obvious concept, yet is this not what continuously happens at Avila? Can anyone honestly say that students are fair to Avila employees or to one another? Would individual departments

do what is truly fair to themselves and other departments, or would a single department at Avila University do whatever it takes to reach its own goals with little or no regard for the repercussions on others? I could easily describe—in detail—ten places where such offenses occur in such severity that I would like to vomit, but I am certain that my list would be missing offenses from other areas of campus that deserve to be punished just as harshly. On the other hand, perhaps it only seems fair to suggest all of campus should be equally investigated; perhaps it is unfair to those who I know have been scorned to withhold the information until everyone is exposed at once. There does not seem to be a central reference to say which side would be fair in this matter, and that is the problem with our web at Avila University.

“Can anyone honestly say that students are fair to Avila employees or to one another?”



A Little Prayer Goes a Long Way

Ben Kopp

A Part of Something Bigger

A prayer comes out of the basket, and a prayer goes in the basket. That is the idea behind Campus Ministry's Stop 'n Go Prayer, which began the Thursday lunch after Ash Wednesday. The idea was brought to the Avila University Campus Ministry Team by freshman student Michelle Beier.

"At the National Catholic Youth Conference, we had a wall to leave prayers," said Beier, "I wanted to bring a much smaller version to campus so students could have an opportunity to take a moment every day and feel that they are a part of something bigger than themselves." Within two weeks of the establishment of Stop 'n Go Prayer, the Beier's hope has become—to an extent—a reality.

Students, faculty, and staff have all stopped by the table in the Marian Centre to randomly pick the prayer that brightened their outlook on the day. Some prayers get retrieved by surprised friends of the original authors; others happen to involve a request for something the receiver is closely connected to—such as health problems to a pre-medical student. One story from this network of prayers was discovered when a member of the financial aid staff randomly picked an anonymous prayer regarding money issues hindering a student's ability to reach campus, which happens to be something Avila University Financial Aid is able to assist with. The realization that this information needs to reach others is just one example of the messages coming from Stop 'n Go Prayer. Other messages, both direct and indirect, are still waiting to unfold.



"Some prayers get retrieved by surprised friends of the original authors..."

Mock Trial Competes at Regional Tournament



Ben Kopp

Hope for the Future

When Drew Walton sued Blitz News Network for defamation, Avila University students and Professor Andrea Olitsky, Esq. were on the case...along with twenty-two other schools. The Avila University Mock Trial Team argued the case four times at American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) Regional Tournament at Washburn University School of Law. Mock attorneys Thomas Wolf, Ericka Brown, and Cecile O'Hora represented Plaintiff Drew Walton, portrayed by Jennifer Murphy. They were supported by Death Investigator Mickey McQuiggan (Jasmine Smith) and Ethics Professor Riley Faith (Laura Powell). Defending Blitz News Network were mock attorneys Benjamin Kopp, Ericka Brown, and Lawrence Hayes. They were supported by Photojournalist Harley Kim (Brittany Aswegan), Reporter Reagan Thomas (Michelle Beier), and Network President Kit Berkshire (Jennifer Murphy).

The Defense presented their case in the first round against the Plaintiff team from an anonymous school in Colorado. With a point differential larger than any other pairing of first round teams, the Defense team from Avila University both won the case and ended the first day in first place overall. Power-matched against teams that have typically gone to the National Tournament, both the Plaintiff and Defense teams fought the good fight until finally ending four ballots away from qualifying for the national tournament.

On the brighter side, Avila University Mock Trial did not go home completely empty-handed. Freshman Michelle Beier, who played Reporter Reagan Thomas, tied a UMKC student for the Regional Best Witness Award. Beier and the gentleman from UMKC had been placed first above sixty-four other witnesses in the tournament.

To Ensure Proper Service

Kayle Walker



Deserving of Dough?

While tipping is never legally required and is decided on by the person being served, in some cases failing to give an acceptable tip may be considered unethical. So who do you tip and how much is considered proper etiquette?

The only unarguable person I believe you should tip is a waiter/waitress. Now that we have that clear, how much should one tip? A survey of about thirty Avila students and professors was conducted to find out how much people typically tip. The survey found that men tip at least twenty percent or more, but for most men the tip can go up or down based on quality of service. As far as women on campus, they tend to tip closer on the fifteen to eighteen percent range, and quality of service also makes a difference on if the tip will go up or down.

I was amazed to see that most people tend to tip closer to twenty percent than fifteen. As a server myself, it's common to receive a tip under twenty percent, and typically it is not because of poor service, but the fact that they believe a fifteen percent tip is proper etiquette.

Most college students have worked in the service industry or know someone who has. After working as a server myself, I believe everyone should hold a job in the service industry. It allows a person to truly walk in the shoes of someone that relies on tips for a living and also gives them valuable people skills. But beyond waiters/waitresses, who else should one tip?

Another fairly obvious person you should tip is your hairstylist. In my survey of a hand full of Avila students, I was shocked to find that a lot of people tip their hairstylist a dollar amount (\$5-\$10), rather than a percentage. A proper tip would be fifteen to twenty percent of the bill. Now if you're a man and your haircut is only \$15, a \$5 tip would be appropriate, but if you're a woman and your haircut/style is closer to \$60 dollars, \$5 is unacceptable. You want to be sure to make your stylist happy. You see he/she often enough, and a good haircut requires a good tip.

A few other jobs that are deserving of tips are bellhops, valets, taxi drivers, mailmen, and the list goes on. One that caught me by surprise in my research of proper tipping etiquette was tipping a hotel maid. Although this may not seem like an obvious gesture, it does make sense to tip your maid if you are staying at a hotel for a few days to ensure a clean room.

While I hope I cleared a few things up about tipping protocol, you may still have questions down the road. If you're ever in a situation where you don't know if you should tip or not, you should always offer. Think of it this way: if you are happy with the job someone did, you should be happy to throw them an extra few bucks

"I was amazed to see that most people tend to tip closer to twenty percent than fifteen."



English CONVERSATION CLUB @ AVILA

JOIN, HAVE FUN AND IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH!!

Tuesdays: 2-3pm
Thursdays: 3-4pm
(other times can be arranged)

IN THE... Library, Eschbaker Room

Students can informally practice their spoken English in a stress free, informal atmosphere. The club is informal and participants can discuss movies, books, food or anything else of interest.

JUST WALK IN....or CALL 816-501-3620

March/April

2009

MARCH 25TH

Ping-Pong & Fooseball Tournament Eagle's Nest at 6:00pm

MARCH 31ST

2nd Annual Professional Etiquette Dinner Whitfield Center 6-8pm

DAG Sign Language Workshop O'Rielly 4-5pm (Also April 7, 14, & 21)

APRIL 2ND

Student Scholar Day Whitfield Center 8:15 am - 2:25 pm

APRIL 13TH-17TH

Registration for Fall 2009 Classes

APRIL 25TH

Honor's Banquet Marian Center 6:30pm

Academic Recognition and Honors Ceremony Goppert Theatre 5pm

15 Minutes With God

Mondays April 6 + Noon-12:15 PM

ROSARY: Using sacred beads to meditate on Gospel stories of the Life of Christ.

Tuesdays April 7 + Noon - 12:15 PM

ECUMENICAL: Prayer services that are not specific to any Christian denomination.

April 1, 2 & 8 + Noon - 12:30 PM

MASS

Friday April 3 + Noon - 12:15 PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Meditations that help us connect our lives with the last hours of Jesus' life.

5 Things to Complain About...Right Now

Kayle Walker

Hair Pulling Pet Peeves

We all have those moments where you want to pull out your hair. Last issue of the Talon I did some venting of an incident that happened on campus. The article sparked other student's personal vents, as well as more of my own. Here are five things that currently drive me crazy, and be sure to check out www.thetalon-online.com for more student vents.



5. Employees at tanning salons. On an average I tan at least three or four times a week and pay somewhere around \$30 a month. My pet peeve with these ladies is that they are ALWAYS trying to sell me something, which is really annoying since I go in often. No I don't want to buy lotion and yes my lotion is good if I did actually buy it. I spend enough money on my skin tone, I don't need to break my bank account. Oh, and FYI, \$70 is NOT a good deal on tanning lotion no matter how good it is!



"No I don't want to buy lotion and yes my lotion is good..."

4. Rihanna and Chris Brown. Okay, so US Weekly is a guilty pleasure of mine, but the Chris Brown ordeal is driving me insane. It bothers me because I used to love Chris Brown. It also bothers me because I say I "used" to love him. While I think he made a huge mistake and should be punished, I still like his music. Another reason is that before the incident, all these radio stations and magazines were talking about how Rihanna was an insane, stalker girlfriend and Chris Brown should break up with her and blah, blah. Not saying she got what she deserved, but it's annoying these media outlets were like a light switch and switched sides on the drop of a dime. And finally, the fact that she is still with him. It's a statistical fact that most battered women go back to their abusers. That's exactly what she is doing and it seems that the public is okay with it because she gives her pathetic excuses and oh Chris Brown is soooo cute, SERIOUSLY!

"It's a statistical fact that most battered women go back to their abusers."



3. "Pretend" Workout people. One of my biggest pet peeves is when you're at the gym, you only have a limited time to be there and all the machines are taken. You go on with your workout, but there is still that one machine you have to do before you leave so you don't feel guilty later. On that machine is the pretender. You know, the person who is moving at a sloth pace and it's doing absolutely nothing physically for them. I just want to scream at the person and tell them their "workout" is doing nothing for them and to stop wasting your time. Not to mention, when they are finally done with their one-hour mile, they don't even wipe the machine off. I know they didn't sweat, but it is still common courtesy!



"On that machine is the pretender. You know, the person who is moving at a sloth pace..."

2. My Apartment's Alarm System. Don't get me wrong, I usually appreciate this helpful tool, but for the past week I've been very distracted by this helpful tool. The battery is dying and so the alarm makes a loud, very annoying, beeping sound about every five minutes. You would think by now it would have died, but no. You would also think it would be a simple fix, but also not so lucky. After reading the manual and not coming up with the solution, I called my apartment maintenance crew. I made the call on Monday and it is now Wednesday and I still haven't heard from them. Our solution to fixing the annoying, never-ending beeps—a sock and some pre-wrap.



"The battery is dying and so the alarm makes a loud, very annoying, beeping sound about every five minutes."

1. Avila Security Guard #96. Oh #96, how you always find me when I am parked illegally. So far this semester, I've received two parking tickets, both from you, #96. While I enjoy your little notes on my car, I'd really appreciate if you stopped. If I parked illegal it's because there were no open parking spots near my classroom. My car isn't technically in a no parking zone, it's just in a spot I created myself, so what. At least next time you leave me that little yellow slip, give me a suggestion on where you would park in my situation. And no, the distant empty parking lot near absolutely nothing is not an option.



"While I enjoy your little notes on my car, but I'd really appreciate if you stopped."

Hey Cheech

Jason Jacob



I am fed up with people who think marijuana should be legal.

There's not a week that goes by that I don't hear some herb-toking, Frisbee-chucking cheebah monkey say "Man, marijuana should just be legalized. It's not hurting anyone."

Actually Cheech, it is. Marijuana is a recreational drug used by many but a gateway drug to everyone. Marijuana gives you a stimulus or "high" to be free of problems or an intense panic attack (knowing from experience years ago), but once you get this high for a couple of years, then you want to experiment with chemicals that will get you even "higher".

Fallen Angel

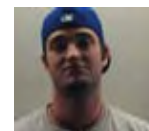
Brian Garrison



Is any one else fed up with Avila's wonderful Angel system? I transferred here this semester, and it's now midterm time and I've yet to master Angel. I'm not sure what's more confusing, the fact that I have to check my email and Angel on a daily basis, or the fact that I have to click on approximately five different things just to see if I've been assigned homework. I'm willing to go out on a limb here and say the best thing about Angel, is the cool image of the eagles flying on the front page

No Fan Base

Austin Cole



I am fed up with the fact that we are a small school with most of our students on campus and they find it too hard to get out of their dorm rooms and come support our sport teams. We are in a great spot to have a huge fan base. Being an athlete myself, I try my best to make it to every sporting event here at Avila. I would love it if we could bring around the fan base here instead of just a couple dedicated fans chanting for their Eagles.

Parking Dilema

Courtney Ryan



The parking lot by Thompson Hall is always crowded. It seems like half the people who park there do not even live in Thompson. I always see people who live in Ridgeway Hall park there everyday. It leaves the rest of us to park on the street and walk to the hall making me feel uneasy and my car vulnerable to being hit. Megan Eagleburger, sophomore, says, "What bothers me the most about the Thompson Parking lot is the compact spaces. When they're the only spaces left I have to try and park in them and then it's a pain to get out because I'm so close to the other cars around me." The compact spaces are more for compact sized cars but the majority of students do not own compact cars so it creates a space problem.

Read the rest of these articles and other student "vents" at www.thetalon-online.com

A & E

In This Section

▼ Emily Hoskins

The A&E section this time around is quite unique. Jacqueline Sharp reveals Avila students who don't give up the normal candy or soda for Lent. What could be more painful than giving up soda? Nicole Drew raves about Eric Mackey, a singer/songwriter from Gladstone, Missouri who has an album coming out by the name of Send to: A Heart Convalescent. Ricky tells all about what to say to your friends who are about to leave the house wearing the worst mistake of their life and how to stop them. Just follow three simple steps. And Kalie Laidley lets us know if the film, Confessions of a Shopaholic, is a success or a complete and ultimate failure.

Confessions of a Shopaholic: Movie Review

Kalie Laidley

Hit or Miss?

Women nationwide anticipated the film debut of Confessions of a Shopaholic. This film, starring Isla Fisher, began as a well publicized book and blossomed into a film full of designer attire, handbags and shoes galore. What more could women ask for when wanting a film full of everything they love to talk about?

My initial thought on the film was excitement because, I too, was a fan of the printed version, but I was quickly disappointed. Not only was the film an extremely dull version of the book, it also focused less on the story line and the emotional aspect and more on what the characters physically looked like. I am aware that the title is Confessions of a Shopaholic and it would, therefore, have to depict some



Erick Mackery: CD Review

Nicole Drew

Mellow Yet Fluid

Last month for my birthday I received a CD from someone I had never heard of. Whenever I listen to a new band I am always a bit hesitant and anxious at the same time, scared of what I will hear because there have been some bad ones. Once I popped in STATEPARK'S album *Send to: A Heart Convalescent* I was intrigued.

After listening to the whole album in one sitting I decided to check out who this unknown band was. Truth is it is one person, Eric Mackey a singer songwriter from Gladstone, Missouri who attends school at Northwest Missouri State University. Every track on the album was written, performed and produced by the Northwest senior. After being away at college Mackey decided to get involved with music. Starting out playing acoustically with little experience he ventured into other areas of music.

The inspiration for this record really came from not trying to be inspired by others. Mackey assures he is not trying to be conceded, "I didn't listen to anything for a while trying to make something original."

The album as a whole seems mellow yet fluid. The music just seems to come natural to a Kansas City native.

"His [Eric Mackey] song kind of sounds like Second Serenade's song, *Your Call*. It is really mellow with a

The "T" with Fashionista Ricky

Ricky Davis



"...just simply use one of these tactics and you will be fine my children."

Ah, My Eyes!

"OMG!! That is the ugliest outfit that I have ever seen in my life!" This is what you are thinking when you see your friend come outside for a party and they look really bad. You want to just hold them and tell them how ugly their outfit is. How do you do this? Well this fashionista knows exactly what the remedy is. When I give advice I like to break it down into steps to make it easy for even a two year old to use. So to tell your friend that his/her outfit is the most hideous thing in the world, follow these three steps.

STEP 1: Find an alternative. "Hey Cassie, do you think you should wear pants or something on your legs cause it gets kind of chilly in the building." This will open the door for you to go to the drawing board all over again. So now you pick out the things for them to wear.

STEP 2: Use a little white lie. "Your outfit is so cute, but do you really think you should wear that now. I saw it in your closet the other day and really wanted you to wear it when we go to Shane's party. I think it is too cute for this party." Now you may say this even if you really did not look in the closet and Shane is not having a party. So this will force them to go change. You offered your time to help them, so they can't resist the love. So Shane is not having a party, so you say, "Oh I thought he was, I guess I overheard the wrong information." That will come later though. At this moment you have nothing to worry about.

STEP 3: Shop and match. If you already know that the outfit your friend is going to wear, here is the easiest thing to do. "Hey tonight I thought it would be really cute if we dressed sort of alike. Two bomb shells looking alike are so hot, not even joking. How about we go shopping and get matching outfits. I am on my way right now!" Then simply hang up in their face. This does not give them the chance to say a word. I know harsh.

These are three of the main ways to do an easy let down, there are so many more. But if you use these, your friends fashion will be so much better on your eyes. You can't walk around with your eyes hurting, right? So next time your friend decides to come out of the house looking like "Boo Boo the Fool" just simply use one of these tactics and you will be fine my children.

In the past couple of weeks I have been getting emails like crazy with your fashion nightmares. I thank you all for reading my column and I hope you like the advice that I gave you. Keep sending them in at davis186379@avila.edu. I will make sure your fashion crisis becomes a fashion trend. Next issue, I will discuss the new way to dress, Retro and Vintage. Don't forget to keep sending those emails! Talk to you next time and thanks for reading the "T"

"The music just seems to come natural to Kansas City native. "



reminiscent tone," said Avila sophomore, Diane Dornhoffer.

Eric Mackey is currently working on a new album. Right now you can purchase *Send To: A Heart Convalescent* on the web or take the opportunity to check out his online record, *Prequel: B-Sides for A Heart Convalescent*. Also, the next performance for STATEPARK is April 18 at the Northwest Pavilion in Maryville, MO.

"I want to inspire people to write and make art. I want people to be free and create their own."

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March Madness

Janos Serfozo



"The stakes are high - one loss and you're gone."

Get Your Blood Pumping

It's that time of the year again, where basketball fans from all over enjoy the passion, love, skill and craziness of college basketball. MARCH MADNESS. It's that time of the year where unknown schools get their chance at a Cinderella story ending and for top ranked teams get to prove that they are at the top for a reason. There is something about March Madness, about college basketball in general that gets our blood pumping. Coaches all over become trampolines of excitement and bracket pools can either make you or break you.

This year is interesting. There are many new faces at the top ranks. The University of Connecticut is sitting at number one despite having 3 losses and being third in the Big East Conference. Sitting at number 2 is North Carolina, also with 3 losses, but are number one in the Atlantic Coast Conference. At number 3 is Pittsburg with three losses and second number 6 Louisville in the Big East Conference. Oklahoma and Memphis are 4 and 5 with identical records at 26 - 3. Duke and Michigan are ranked 7 and 8 and Kansas is at number 9 with the best record in the Big 12 Conference. Ranked 10 is Wake Forest and Mizzou is at number 15 and third place in the Big 12 Conference. Last year all four number ones in the bracket made it to the final. Who knows if it will happen again and for how long? Who knows if an unknown school will make it? They call it March Madness for a reason. The stakes are high - one loss and you're gone. But college basketball in March is a different entity. ANY TEAM IS BEATABLE ON ANY GIVEN DAY. Get your picks, watch the games and try not to break the springs on your couch.

Baseball Update

Peter Kondracki

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Though the first home win was impressive, the Eagles couldn't stay consistent. They went on to lose their next 3 games. 2 of them were to a very good William Woods team at their field (3-2 and 10-0) and the other was the first game of a doubleheader at home with Concordia College (4-3). The Eagles did go on to win the second game with Concordia 14-7, again showing a display of dominance offensively.

Again this rollercoaster ride of wins and losses was off again as the Eagles lost their next 3 games to Iowa Wesleyan College (11-8, 4-3, and 7-5) at their turf.

Now sit- definitely had pre-season considered That is un-rolled into Something these Eagles underneath came out a pretty good



ting at 2-8 this team not lived up to its hype and was almost a disappointment. til Missouri Valley town. seemed to wake up and light a fire them because they ready to play against Missouri Valley

squad. Avila took the first game of the doubleheader at home with a close 1-0 victory. They won the next game 6-3. The next day they travelled to Missouri Valley and beat them twice in their own house with an 11-7 and 5-2 victory.

Statistically, Avila has ranked in the top 25 in Steal Attempts per game (3.500), Stolen Bases per game (2.643), and Walks Allowed (2.429) in the division. The pitching staff has been hit with injuries and is a little thin, especially with Nathan Albert and Gary Lumby being ranked #2 and #13 in Innings Pitched per Game (8.889 and 6.833) in the division. The Eagles did receive a boost when pitcher Matt Newby returned from an elbow injury to pitch in the second game at Missouri Valley. While he was held to minimum action, he is a pitching threat when healthy and will only help this team continue to move forward.

The baseball team will be busy during spring break this year playing 2 games at home against Evangel University coming up this weekend. They then go on to travel to Central Methodist University on Tuesday March 17th and to Culver Stockton College March 22nd and 23rd. The next game after classes resume will be played Saturday March 28th at home against Baker University at 1:00 PM. Come out and support your Eagles!!!

Rollercoaster Called Avila Athletics

This month the sports section is a definite eye catcher. Hop on, grab a seat, and take a ride on the Avila rollercoaster. You will first be going up and down a few times while passing Avila Men's Baseball. As you are on this ride, keep your arms and legs inside your cart as you pass through the tunnel of March Madness. Be sure to wear your helmet at all time as we take you through Avila Women's Softball. As you arrive at the end of the ride, make sure you exit to the left where you will enter into March Madness. I hope you enjoyed your ride and please come back soon.

Avila Softball Preview

Janos Serfozo

Meshing as a team

The Avila women's softball team has many new faces this year. They have seven freshman: Cortni Mayo, Emilee Bickleman, Lindsey Thompson, Jessica Winkelmann, Meagan Davis, Jacqueline Miguel and Nicole White all from either the Kansas or Missouri area. The Eagles also acquired three transfer athletes. Lana Dunning from North Central Missouri College, Stephanie Baltzell from Heartland Community College and Erin Sapp from Missouri Valley College. The difficulty with so many new players is meshing the team together and getting them to play as a single cohesive unit. Not an easy thing to do, but with the right mix of girls it is very possible.

The Eagles do have experienced players to help with that transition. Liz Larson, Sasha Hughes,

Melissa Hurtado cat" Parker are all experience. Junior, also returns to the experience and is a key The two seniors, and Christina Tracey best players on the pitcher on the squad in 2008 with an ERA losses and 1 save. The



and Allison "Alli sophomores with Courtney Ryan eagles with playing player in the outfield. Mallory Birnbaum are the two of the team. Mallory is the and pitched 22 games of 3.22, 12 wins, 12 Eagles might have

some trouble without her due to an elbow injury, however, she will still bat for the Eagles. She will be back on the mound when she finishes her rehabilitation in about 4 to 6 weeks. Christina Tracey, the team's best hitter, is out for the season with multiple blood clots in her lungs called pulmonary emboli. Christina was a little upset at the fact that she could not play the sport she loves for her senior year but was optimistic to help her team any way she could.

"It just sucks you know, not being able to play your senior year" she said. "I'm the stat girl now."

The lady Eagles are going to have to work hard to replace such great talent. Last year the softball team finished their season at 22-22. This year they are off to a slow start at 1-6, but it is still early on in the season and the team's situation could change with the help of all the fresh faces along side the returning players. Our ladies must truly step up to the challenge presented to them and get their team on the right track. The team's next home game is April 8, against Mid-America Nazarene.

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Justin Lott

HAAC AWARDS

Women's Basketball

All-American Honorable Mention: Ashley Townsend

Player of the Year: Ashley Townsend

First Team All-Conference: Ashley Townsend

Third Team All-Conference: Sarah Parker

Honorable Mention: Alyson Young

Men's Basketball

Second Team All-Conference- Adam Short

Third Team All-Conference- Justin Lott



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Alyson Young



Liz Larson



Sasha Hughes



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Student Scholar Presentations
Whitfield Center, 8:30 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

Student Posters/Exhibits/Portfolios
Hooley-Bondschu Library, 12:00 - 12:40 p.m.

Luncheon
Whitfield Center, 12:55 - 1:25 p.m.

Acknowledgments
1:25 - 1:40 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Carol K. Coburn, Ph.D., Professor of Religious Studies and Women's Studies
"Ordinary People and Extraordinary Life Lessons," Whitfield Center, 1:40 - 2:00 p.m.

Awards Ceremony
2:00 - 2:25 p.m.

All campus community members are invited to attend
any or all of the above Scholar Day events.

In This Section

▼ Dave Wilson

Provocative Insight into the Government's World

As with every President, once you are elected the clock is ticking and sometimes the clock stops after one term. In this issue Ben Kopp expresses the head spinning number of issues facing America and her president; who is charged with fixing said problems. Kopp also discusses an evil empire established in the union of Nuclear power. With the standard He said/She said the Talon Political section continues to offer its audience provocative insight into the government's world. One issue holding the most important grip on the American public certainly has to be: How is Barack's bracket doing?

He Said: Non-Proliferation Treaty

Ben Kopp

We Can Keep, but you Cannot Make

Although the United States may not have been the first to begin thinking of nuclear weaponry, the American nation was the first to create and use a nuclear bomb. A number of countries would test various types of nuclear weapons in the following decades. These weapons were created for both scientific knowledge and defense. Eventually, the countries that pioneered this technology would call for the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The ultimate goal for the future was disarmament. The short-term goal was stopping the spread of nuclear weapons throughout the world.

The problem people seem to have with asking others to refrain from researching nuclear weapons is the fact that several countries—

including the United States—still hold onto some of their weapons; however, this should not be a problem at all. Look at the smallpox situation. After the smallpox virus was determined to be eradicated from the public, speculation arose that countries such as the United States, the former USSR, and the United Kingdom may have held onto specimens of the virus to keep securely kept in case the vaccine would need to be used again in the future. Applying this to our current affair, what if a powerful leader with harmful intentions attempted to create nuclear weapons? Other countries in the world would need pre-made nuclear weapons at their disposal. This does not necessarily mean that every country needs its very own “just-in-case” bomb; rather, a handful of independent countries with very diverse cultures and backgrounds would suffice. That is currently what we have, and there is a zero-percent possibility of these countries banning together in an evil plot to create one empire under the threat of nuclear war.

These weapons were created for both scientific knowledge and defense.



She Said: Do We Have the Right?

Charlotte Bishop

The US faces a huge question right now: Do we have the right to tell other countries whether or not they can have nuclear weapons? We have them; it's a bit hypocritical for us to decide that others can't. After all, while we are the most powerful country in the world, we're not the rulers. Our government is not in charge of the whole world.

Do we have the right to decide whether countries like Pakistan can have nuclear weapons? It's true that with the Iraqi war, we've gotten scared of other countries and what they can do to us. However, perhaps we shouldn't be willing to take away more freedom from already-oppressed countries – with our many freedoms, that would be hypocrisy at its finest.



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**Spring Break
St. Patrick's Day
Mardi Gras
Lint**



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Gift Gone Wrong
Dave Wilson

Insulted for the Browns

To shake the hand of Gordon Brown, who is the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, would be one of the great honors of my life. It seems President Obama is less impressed by the political leader. The prime minister clearly went to great lengths to present the president with a meaningful gift. He clearly succeeded, as he gave President Obama an ornamental pen holder made from the timbers of the Victorian anti-slave ship HMS Gannet. The prime minister also offered a framed commission for HMS Resolute and of the first edition of the biography of Churchill by Sir Martin Gilbert. Even more so, in a move that is the Brown's Obama children showered the with gifts. This is where the story turns tragic, as the best that the most powerful man in the world could conjure up as a gift revealed itself as a box set of 25 classic American films. More than anything I feel insulted for the Browns, but secondly I am very embarrassed for our President, who seems less and less Presidential daily. Perhaps, he could have saved on mail costs, by sending the bronze of Sir Winston Churchill that formerly resided in the oval office back in Brown's luggage. After all it just symbolized the strength of our transatlantic relationship.

"I am very embarrassed for our President, who seems less and less Presidential daily."



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Obama's "To Do" List
Ben Kopp

Regardless of whom people supported in the campaign, chances are that everyone now wants the national agenda addressed. The official list is organized on the White House website, www.whitehouse.gov; however, there are additional matters that Americans would like to address. Here are the main matters that we hope President Obama will work on for the country:

1. The U.S. economy leading the world in improving their economies
2. Improving education nationwide,
3. Find Osama bin Laden
4. Keep Hillary Clinton from enraging Iran (they have the ability to make 50 nukes)
5. Prevent drugs from coming in from Mexico
6. Illegal immigration
7. North Korea talks
8. Americans missing in other countries
9. Defend the land, the air, the sea, space, and cyberspace
10. Decrease foreign oil dependency
11. Decrease airplanes falling from the sky
12. Rework the housing market
13. Save the banks
14. End discrimination and deception
15. Energy efficiency, help the world go green,
16. Decrease military suicides
17. Make sure we do not kill the health care system or vice versa
18. Create jobs for the unemployed
19. Improve the status of American farms
20. Keep Social Security stable
21. Restructure the tax code
22. Keep the United States at the head of the technological world,
23. Help the veterans
24. Empower women
25. Mitigate the war between religion and state
26. Improve the national transportation system
27. Support the children
28. Support the arts
29. Rebuild New Orleans
30. Fight HIV/AIDS
31. Fight cancer
32. Strengthen city power
33. Make urban areas more livable
34. Increase support of local law enforcement
35. End youth violence.

Will Obama get to all of these items? We can only hope.

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SPECIAL REPORT

In This Section

Javier Kelty ▼

In the first month of spring, the Talon staff is focusing on the many holidays associated with the beginning of this season. Get enlightened on the history and origins of the traditions practiced during Lent and Mardi Gras. There are also stories on what was done over Spring Break, including a disturbing story of how things can get out of hand over the break. Find out the best locations to visit over break, with a closer look at the number one spot in the country, for future reference. Anything from the origins of St. Patrick's Day to who likes corned beef and cabbage can also be found in this section.

History of St. Patrick's Day

Faye Gipe

The Great Potato Famine

The first St. Patrick's Day parade was not actually held in Ireland, but in New York City in 1762. Being initiated by ethnically Irish members of the English militia, this parade proved a way to display the pride that the Irish-Americans held in their heritage. Over the course of a century, the parade was seen as a symbol of unity and the realization that the amount of ethnically Irish people in the United States meant social and political power.

After the Great Potato Famine of Ireland began in 1845, the annual celebration of St. Patrick and of cultural unity became a statement that Irish-Americans were not ashamed of who and what they were. It was during this time in the United States that the Irish received the most hostility from native born Americans. This animosity stemmed from the heavy influx of Irish immigrants into port cities like New York and Boston. These cities were becoming overcrowded and jobs were hard to find. Many of the immigrants were good workers and highly skilled in their various crafts, posing a threat to the rest of the population.

It didn't help that most of the people coming off the boats were filthy and carried the stench of accumulated bodily wastes from the ill-kept vessels they had lived on for two to three months. The Irish were often made the butt of political jokes, appearing in caricature drawings as ape-like, dirty, and wearing outdated clothing. This is actually where the common symbol for the leprechaun was derived from.

Discrimination against the Irish-Americans and immigrants became so bad that employers would often post signs saying "No Irish Need Apply." Some called them "white negroes" and believed them to be less than human because of their accents and social status. Some of the Irish avoided this hardship by changing their names and giving up their accents, essentially getting rid of their heritage.

In lieu of this holiday history, some people might suggest that the co-celebration of a saint and of ethnic pride may be rebellious and unpatriotic. However, I would say that it is now a symbol of our taking ownership of the past and a reminder of some of the many things that American society has overcome.

The Green Holiday

Colleen Reagan

Patron Saint of Ireland

Everyone knows things about St. Patrick's Day and relates the holiday to something they do on that day, whether it's attending the parades, watching T.V specials, or getting a card in the mail. Also, everyone has his or her own unique way of celebrating it. To some it holds a "special meaning," one which they spend with their family. To others it's a good excuse to get drunk and have fun, but to most, this is where the knowledge of the holiday stops.

Who the heck is Saint Patrick? Is he a real guy? Yes, at the end of the fourth century St. Patrick was the patron saint of Ireland and is one of Christianity's most widely known figures. He was born in Britain to wealthy parents and at age sixteen he was captured, taken to Ireland, and put into captivity. Irish raiders attacking his father's estate did this. Although he was and is still celebrated, many facts of his life are still a mystery.

Why do we wear Green? The color that was most known for St. Patrick was blue, not green. The color most widely associated with Ireland is Green. How does this make sense? In modern times (after the 1600's) St. Patrick became more of a symbol of Ireland and nationalism. This change was in the 1750's. Therefore, wearing green with shamrocks was much more fitting in showing pride and support to Irish people.

How ever you decide to spend St. Patrick's Day remember there is more to it than parades, T.V specials and drinking green beer. You are celebrating the life of St. Patrick.



Kansas City St. Patrick's Day Parade

Javier Kelty

The Irish Heritage

Since Irish heritage tends to be pretty significant all over the United States, it's only natural that Ireland's most recognized holiday is celebrated at such magnitude. Since 1974, Kansas City has paid tribute to its citizens' Irish heritage by organizing the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The 36th annual parade will run from 11 a.m. until 1p.m. on March 17th. It will start on Broadway and 33rd Street (Linwood) moving south to 41st Street. Since the parade's theme is pioneering, the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee felt it was only appropriate to make the course in the local Irish community's century-old roots in Midtown.

There will be floats and performances that any family, business, organization, school, band or drill team can take part in.

WORD ON THE STREET

Do you like the St. Partick's Day traditional dish corn beef and cabbage?



Bernadette Weeks:

"I love corned beef and cabbage!"



Alec Rigdon:

"It invokes bad mental images, so I tend to stay away from it."



Gracie Gillespie:

"My mom makes it every year for St. Patrick's Day and I love it!"



Toree Bedsworth:

"Corned beef and cabbage is definitely not my cup of tea."



Emmalyn Vogt and Sam Sanoubane:

"No-no-no-no!"



Reese Fauser:

"It's my favorite food in the whole world, after spaghetti."



Liz Nelson:

"I never in my life have tasted corned beef or cabbage."



Kanae Maeda:

"I haven't ever heard of it."



Spring Break in Panama City

Monica Lang

Attention Spring Breaker

Where is a crazy place to have a blast for Spring Break...Panama City! MTV will be there this year over Spring Break 2009. It is going to be a great time. Usually as a college student you only have one thing on your mind for Spring Break, and that is either to relax or to have fun. There is no contemplating further. Most students will use this time to get ahead in their studies, or use this time to work and make a little more money. The less financially thrifty people are spending their money on Spring Break getaways left and right. There is something about letting loose in the middle of the semester that just feels good. No parents (preferably) and no rules - it's just Spring Break. So, take advantage of the time, or sit around and do absolutely nothing because everyone knows how good it feels. No obligations, no papers, or stresses. Happy Spring Break, and feel free to let your hair down and enjoy the break!

Top Five Things to do Over Spring Break

Steve Sharkey

1. Take an interesting vacation
2. Catch up on sleep (this will happen to the point that you're ahead on sleep).
3. Catch up on school work (usually doesn't happen)
4. Talk about doing something productive but spend more time coming up with imaginative excuses as to why you shouldn't partake in said productive activity.
5. Just sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

At the start of the year, almost every college student has some luxurious idea for making their Spring Break the one to remember. Typically the plan is gather a big group of friends and a road trip or plane trip to exotic place that will be crowded with other college Spring-Breakers.

I think Spring Break is a good thing; it's a week for letting loose and relaxing before the final push of the school year.

A lot of students don't think about taking a trip. All they can think of is Catch-Up-Break. If you're like me and trying to graduate this May, then Spring Break is the best time to try and get ahead of your class loads.

Now I might consider taking a day or two to relax and enjoy having no classes, but everyone knows that if you do that, you just don't want to start studying and working on projects after relaxing.

Catch-Up-Break isn't just for students. Some teachers use this time to catch up on grading or preparing for what is to come when break is over.

I feel bad for the teachers that have to work on school during the break; they are the ones that need to get away from the students, all our nagging and BS excuses for why we don't have our work in.

I might not come back with a tan or any really interesting stories to tell, but I will get some good home-cooked food, and that's really something to look forward to.

I also find from the past few years that those who were happiest and most relaxed were those who basically spent the break at home, lounging around, doing a little catch up work, and just relaxing. So while Spring Break is typically viewed as a scene from "Girls Gone Wild," it really isn't necessary to get sunburned and do something crazy for that week off from school. Sometimes, the best break you will get is just going home and sleeping, either to catch up or get ahead.

For those of you who are going to party destinations - have fun, let off some steam. P.S. Raise your beverage in your hand and give cheers to those who are spending their spring break in catch up mode to get through the semester.

Top Ten Places to go for Spring Break

Monica Lang

1. Cancun, Mexico
2. Bahamas and Jamaica
3. Panama City Beach, Florida
4. Alcapulco
5. Miami and South Beach Florida
6. South Padre Island, Texas
7. Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan
8. North American Ski Resorts
9. Europe
10. Puerto Rico

Source: StudentTravel.com

Spring Break Gone Wrong

Monica Lang

The names in this story have been changed for identity protection. This is a true story and happened over Spring Break 2008.

Better Safe than Sorry

It was senior Spring Break and Jake was going to Panama City, Florida. It was planned to be one of his life's greatest memories, and it was a night he will never forget. The fun and craziness of Spring Break is built up by the media and students around the nation just like Spring Break should be, but what about the precautions that should be taken during that same week for our safety? Just after midnight on a Wednesday night of Spring break 2008, Jake was walking out of a bar and got hit by a car. From the accident he suffered severe traumatic brain injury, and broke his leg amongst other things. He was said not to live when he arrived at the hospital, but went into immediate surgery to relieve the internal bleeding. After the surgery, he was in the critical condition for many months. The doctors said that he was able to come and be taken care of there until he could continue his intense rehab (learning how to walk/talk again). According to Jake's sister, Jake originally wasn't showing any neurological improvements, but around August (the time he was brought home), his facial movements and overall awareness started to noticeably increase. Things started happening quickly; smiling, then mouthing words, then speaking, then singing, then moving arms and legs on his own. It appears the majority of his long term memory is intact, which was a miracle. He had been home now for almost six months, when his family rejoiced about Jake's amazing progress. He still has a long way to go, but they are so happy with how far he has come. Here it is a year after the accident and Jake will be spending his Spring Break at home with his family. They have just found out that he is a candidate for the rehab clinic where he will receive occupational, speech and physical therapy three times a week. His family is praying and hoping for his progress to continue to flourish.

The ability for things to change at such a quick flash of a second is amazing. Jake was a fraternity brother and had invested in this great trip for relaxation after his midterms, but this year here he is living through his recovery still. This is a caution to all Spring Breakers, even if you are just staying in Kansas City. Please be careful and be smart about your decisions. Call a taxi if you cannot drive. It is essential that we learn a lesson in Jake's travesty and remember to be more cautious about our decisions. Although, at times, College can be crazy and create a lot of fun, we also need to be cognizant of what it means "to be safer rather than to be sorry."



40 Days and 40 Night

Jacqueline Sharp

To Sacrifice or not to Sacrifice?

Lent, by tradition, represents the forty days that Jesus spent being tempted by Satan in the desert before the beginning of his public ministry. During Lent, most people give up common things like food, candy, soda, alcohol, etc., but in some cases people choose to do something to better their beliefs. When I asked Avila junior Colleen Reagan what she gave up for Lent she said, “I gave up procrastination.”

Reagan said that she gave up procrastinating because “I am stressed when I have to do it all at once!” and “I felt like waiting until the last minute was affecting my school work.”

Another Avila Student, Katie Donnelly, said that she gave up fast food for Lent and Danielle Higgs said that for Lent she is just “trying to stay positive, because it will help me more in the long run.”

Whether you give up something or nothing at all or try and change something about your ways, it’s the thought that counts for this holiday.

The Origins of Lent

Javier Kelty

Prayer, Penitence and Almsgiving

While most people recognize Lent as the time period where they give up a luxury, or sometimes a personal vice, the majority of the students, faculty and alumni at Avila surely know that it is also a time of prayer, penitence and almsgiving in the Catholic religion.

However, there may be other aspects that aren’t as commonly known by the general public. Hopefully this will help answer some of the frequently asked questions about the sometimes strange customs associated with Lent.

Lent can be translated from its original term in Greek, tessarakoste, literally meaning “fortieth day.”

While there are many theories behind the reason Lent begins forty days before Easter Sunday, the most common speculation is that they symbolize the forty days Jesus spent in the desert resisting temptation by the devil. This naturally makes sense, since people are supposed to resist temptation against whatever they give up during Lent.

While forty is a significant number in the Holy Bible, being the number of hours Jesus rested in his tomb before Easter, it was also important in pagan religions. Many people in Germanic cultures who relied on the agriculture as their main source of food were forced to give up food because droughts and poorly grown crops were common at that time of year. The term associated with these forty days was known as Lenze in German and lente in Dutch.

Mardi Gras of course is Fat Tuesday, the last day to feast or binge in anyway.

The black crosses placed on practicing Catholics’ foreheads pays tribute to the old tradition of putting ashes on ones head to symbolize repentance.

Since many Catholics would fast, starting on Good Friday for the last forty hours before Easter Sunday, there were often a lot of eggs left over, which was the reason they were painted red and hidden in yards, making the tradition fun for children.

The Easter bunny was a concept that was introduced by Dutch immigrants in Pennsylvania. The bunny supposedly hid the eggs the children painted, but the Dutch excluded the rite of fasting from Easter which is why people in modern times tend to eat the eggs after finding them.

History of Mardi Gras

Steve Sharkey

Pancake Tuesday

I have figured out that the Catholics know what is going on. There is Lent, which asks you for forty days of fasting. Traditionally, people pick one thing to give up for those 40 days. I myself gave up fast food. Most people try and give up a bad habit like smoking, which only lasts for about three days. That’s not what I am talking about though. All across the world on the day before Ash Wednesday, people have Mardi Gras celebrations.

Just the name Mardi Gras conjures up images of drunken, bead-wearing revelers dancing through the streets. It is probably most famous for booze hounds buying beads to get intoxicated females to flash them as payment, but it’s more than that. It is a season of extravagant parades, masquerade balls, and king cake parties. But how, and when, did this huge mid-winter party get started?

Many of you might not know this, but the history of Mardi Gras began long before Europeans settled in the New World. Historians tell us that sometime in mid February the ancient Romans had a circus-like festival known as Lupercalia honoring the god Lupercus, alternately known as the god of fertility and the god of agriculture and pastoral shepherds. In either case, his celebration definitely had Mardi Gras-like traits, including days of feasting and drinking.

When Rome embraced Christianity, the early church fathers decided it was better to integrate certain aspects of pagan rituals into the new faith rather than try to eliminate them altogether. Carnival became a period of abandon and merriment that preceded the penance of Lent, thus giving a Christian interpretation to the ancient custom.

What began as a Roman based celebration rapidly spread across the European continent. Each region and country celebrated their own traditions. In England, pancake feasts were served -- a tradition that lasts until today. Shrove Tuesday, the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, is widely known in the UK as “Pancake Tuesday” and is celebrated with pancake-eating competition and pancake races.

In France, this period of partying before Lent was especially boisterous. In fact, the term Mardi Gras is a French expression meaning “Fat Tuesday” -- likely referring to the indulgent nature of the pre-Lenten celebration.

Even if you don’t like the French, you need to tip your hat to them, for they are the ones who brought the fiesta to America. Many historians believe the party crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 1699, on the vessel of a French explorer named Sieur d’Iberville. The Frenchman landed in what is today Louisiana, just south of New Orleans, the heart of America’s modern-day Mardi Gras celebrations.

Though it is linked to a religious holiday, Mardi Gras may be used as an excuse for inappropriate behavior. Mardi Gras is an opportunity for people to get away with anything before they attempt to be good for 40 days, even though that doesn’t always happen.





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